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Rural District Council



ANNUAL REPORT
of the
Medical Officer
of Health



1959





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Cheadle Rural District Council

REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
for the year ending December 31st, 1959

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INTRODUCTION

To the Chairman and Members of the Cheadle Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my report for the year ending 31st December, 1959.

In recent years I have tried to introduce a different note of emphasis throughout each report—"What remains to be done" in 1956, "Information for schools" in 1957 and "Changes in the past ten years" in 1958.

On coming to write this report I felt there was no new note of emphasis which could be introduced and that the best sub-title I could find was "A year of peaceful progress."

That there has been progress is made manifest in every section of the report. Some individuals and sections of our community may feel the progress is not rapid enough and to them I would quote the words of one of my former chiefs in a Presidential Address at the Royal Society of Health Congress this year:-

"After a life time in the Public Health Service I remain convinced more than ever that there are no dividends in ballyhoo and precious few in high powered propaganda.

It seems to take the best part of a generation to secure the acceptance of a new concept, but surely this rate of progress is not too slow provided it is real and permanent."

This report, then, is intended to be little more than a record of our work in 1959 put out in a form which is I hope as readable as the necessary inclusion of statistics and tables will allow.

I am,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

E. H. TOMLIN,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

The Council Offices,
Leek Road
CHEADLE, Staffs.
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August, 1960

GENERAL INFORMATION

Chairman of the Rural District Council—Mr. J. M. Berresford
Vice Chairman of the Rural District Council—Mr. F. G. Taylor.
Clerk of the Council—Mr. H. W. Henson, Barrister at Law.

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE 1959

Chairman : Mr. J. Finnikin

Members—Mrs. R. Berry (Resigned 8-5-59), Mrs. H. M. Gardner, Mrs. M. K. Harris, Messrs. J. H. Aberley, W. A. Ashton, J. A. Berresford, J. M. Berresford, J. Brindley, T. P. Brindley, J. Byatt, R. I. Carr, P. Clowes, J. C. Cope, P. Cratchley, N. V. Critchlow, J. W. Crossley, R. A. Evernden (Resigned 10-4-59), W. Fanthom, J. Finnikin, F. R. Ford, A. E. Foreman, J. R. Goodwin, D. Heath (Deceased 15-7-59) N. Heathcote, W. Jones, S. W. Lees, A. G. Maddicott, J. Moffatt, T. Mottram, P. O'Neill, H. L. Podmore, J. Price, W. Shelley, J. Shirley, J. H. Simcock, A. Smith, D. G. Spooner, W. H. Swinson, F. G. Taylor, W. C. Washburn, R. White, F. Williams, T. H. Willis, S. Worsdale, W. H. Hewitt (Elected 13-2-59) Mrs. D. Horton (Elected 13-2-59), Mrs. S. A. Ratcliffe (Elected 13-2-59), Mr. D. McWhirter (Elected 5-6-59), J. Johnson (Elected 3-7-59), F. H. Dale (Elected 25-9-59).

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

E. H. TOMLIN, M.D.Ch.B., D.P.H., Medical Officer of Health.
R. COMLEY, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I., Chief Public Health Inspector
and Food Inspector.
D. N. DUNLOP, M.A. P. H. I., Public Health Inspector and Food
Inspector.
P. J. MAYERS, M. A. P. H. I., Public Health Inspector and Food
Inspector.
K. M. HAWKINS, Clerk.
H. E. MOSLEY, Rodent Operative

STAFF: ENGINEER AND SURVEYOR'S DEPARTMENT.

J. W. BURTON, M.I.P.H.E., M.R.S.H., Engineer and Surveyor.
A. GRANT, A.M.I.Mun.E., Deputy Engineer and Surveyor.
H. POINTON, Architectural and Town Planning Assistant.
H. F. PARRINGTON, A.I.M.S., Town Planning Assistant.
G. D. BIRKS, Architectural Assistant.
E. CHALLINOR, A.M.I.S.P., M.R.S.H., Engineering Assistant.
R. HENSHALL, H.N.C., Engineering Assistant
M. H. J. EVANS, H.N.C., Engineering Assistant.
G. GIBSON, Building Inspector.
T. M. WALLER, Junior Engineering Assistant.
D. CRITCHLOW, Junior Engineering Assistant.
W. H. HOBSON, Clerk.
J. W. SHAW, Clerk.
E. LOWELL, Clerk.
R. ROLLASON, Shorthand Typist.
M. REEVES, Shorthand Typist.
O. E. DAVIES, Shorthand Typist.

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area in Acres	60,291.
Registrar General's Estimate of population	36,790.
Number of inhabited houses according to Rate Book	10,446.
Rateable Value	£307,761 0 0
Sum represented by a penny rate	£1,110 13 9.7

SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

The general prosperity of recent years continued through 1959 and there were no employment problems.

Ipstones is deserving of mention as having won the Staffordshire Rural Communities Council's award for being the "best kept village." Credit most go to the inhabitants of Ipstones, to its Parish Council, and to the Rural District Council, and it must go also to the Rural Communities Council for fostering the idea of "its up to us" instead of "they ought to do something about it."

From Werrington there came complaints that dogs wandering at large were a source of danger on the roads and fouled the foot-paths. After representations from the Rural District Council the Control of Dogs Order was made applicable to a length of Ash Bank, but it seems that dogs still wander about without a lead. One member of the Council pointed out that they could not read the notices!

There seems no question that the Order could be a useful one from the view point of promotion of health and prevention of accidents, but like the Litter Act it does not get enforced because public opinion takes the line "they ought to do something about it" instead of "its up to us."

In December the Council was represented at an enquiry into the proposal of British Railways to close the Churnet Valley line to passenger traffic. The Council's view was that this line was necessary for workers to get to factories in the Churnet Valley, and also allowed people in the Churnet Valley villages to reach the market towns of Leek and Uttoxeter even in adverse weather. It would seem however that there was no economic justification for more than a works service.

For the first time it proved necessary in 1959 to make application to a magistrate for the compulsory removal to hospital of an old person in need of care and attention. An Order under the National Assistance (Amendment), Act 1951 was made, and I am glad to say the old person later came to appreciate that she was better off in hospital than at home.

A Salaried Civil Defence Officer, Mr. G. Hetherington, was appointed during the year and set about the difficult task of getting people to see not only that Civil Defence is necessary but that it can only be successful if the public accepts the idea that "its up to us."

I am indebted to him for the following brief report on the years work.

"Compared with other districts in close proximity, recruitment in the Cheadle Rural District has not been high, but it is most pleasing to note that those members of the public who have come to us are of a very good type.

Training in First Aid and background subjects has been given to these new members, and our older members were given a chance to show their capabilities when they were invited by the County Civil Defence Officer to take part in a mass evacuation exercise (EXODUS I) which was held in the North Staffordshire area.

I am very pleased to report that Mrs. D. E. Collis and her team of ladies from the Welfare Section carried out their allotted task in a most efficient manner, ensuring a very steady flow of evacuees through the necessary procedure of a reception area.

It has become very apparent that one of the drawbacks to recruitment has been the lack of permanent premises in which to carry on our training. The use of varied accommodation has a rather discouraging effect on the individual volunteer, particularly when evenings have to be changed weekly because of availability of the premises.

It is hoped that by the time this publication is again issued our position regarding premises will be a much happier one, leading to a much higher standard of training, and a large increase in numbers of volunteers taking part in that training.

Civil Defence has become an integral part of our way of life, and whether in peace or war its members can be a great asset to the nation."

The form, in which these statistics are set out is that called for by Ministry of Health Circulars 22/58 and 1/60.

Table I comprises statistics supplied by the Registrar General and rates based there on.

Table II lists deaths from certain specific causes.

Table III shown later in the report lists the numbers, sex, and age incidence of cases of notifiable infectious disease.

TABLE I

Population of Rural District (Mid Year estimate)	36,790
Live Births.	
Number - 293 males. 234 females	527
*Rate per 1000 population	14.7
Illegitimate Live Births per cent of total live births	3.5
Stillbirths	
Number	18
Rate per 1000 total live and still births	33.1
Total Live and Stillbirths	545
Infant Deaths (deaths under 1 year)	11
Infant Mortality Rates.	
Total infant deaths per 1000 total live births	20.2
Legitimate infant deaths per 1000 legitimate live births	15.6
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1000 illegitimate live births	166.6
Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 4 weeks per	
1000 total live births)	17.7
Early neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 1 week	
per 1000 total live births.)	15.3
Perinatal Mortality Rate (stillbirths and deaths under 1	
week combined per 1000 total live and still births)	47.7
Maternal Mortality (including abortion)	
Number of deaths	1
Rate per 1000 total live and still births	1.84
Deaths at all ages. 243 males. 210 females ...	453
*Death rate per 1000 of population.	12.1
*Registrar Generals Comparability Factor used in estimation of this	
rate:- Births 1.03 Deaths 0.96	

TABLE II

DEATHS FROM SPECIFIC DISEASES.	Male	Female
Respiratory Tuberculosis	2	0
Cancer of Stomach	9	2
Cancer of Lung	9	3
Cancer of breast	1	7
Cancer of uterus	0	1
Cancer of other sites	19	13
Leukaemia	0	3
Diabetes	1	1
Strokes etc.	35	35
Coronary heart disease and angina	51	24
Other heart diseases	34	54
Influenza	2	0
Pneumonia	10	5
Bronchitis	9	9
Other respiratory diseases	2	3
Ulcer of Stomach etc.	2	1
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	1	0
Nephritis	3	2
Other forms of Tuberculosis	0	1
Syphilis	2	0
Pregnancy, abortion and childbirth	0	1
Congenital malformations	1	1
Motor Accidents	9	0
All other accidents	6	7
Suicide	2	1

Comment on the 1959 statistics.

For the first time since 1953 there has been a fall in the number of births as compared with the previous year. In 1958 we had a total of 591 live, and still births, in 1959 we had only 545. A drop of this degree however is not sufficient to make me feel we have come to the end of the general trend for our Cheadle Birth Rate to rise.

In Table I we are presented with an increased number of "mortality rates" from the inclusion of a so called "Peri-natal Mortality Rate" and an "Early neo-natal Mortality Rate." With only eleven infants under the age of one year having died altogether the breakdown into the different rates is so subject to chance variation that I feel it can have little value for us in the Rural District.

Looking at Table I we see the Legitimate Infant deaths were 15.6 per 1000 legitimate births, and the illegitimate deaths were 166.6 per 1000 illegitimate births.

One would be tempted to say that the illegitimate child was ten times more likely to die before reaching the age of one year than was the fortunate child born in wed-lock.

If we had looked at the corresponding figures in the 1958 report we would have found that illegitimate children were exceptionally healthy and robust, as every one of them survived the first year of life.

Nevertheless in larger areas, or in the Rural District over a period longer than one year, the new rates will act as a pointer to what is needed if we are to attain a greater survival of our infants. At present I think the feeling is that we should aim at ensuring thorough ante-natal supervision is available and is accepted.

This year there is showing one maternal death, the first in three years. It was, I think, unexpected and unpreventable.

TABLE

[illegible]

Poliomyelitis Non-paralytic		Measles (excluding rubella)		Dysentery		Meningococcal Infection	
M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
..	..	148	146	1	1	..	1
..	..	3	2	..	..	..	..
..	..	17	14	..	1	..	..
..	..	20	20	..	..	..	..
..	..	15	12	..	..	..	..
..	..	15	12	..	..	..	..
..	..	69	71	..	..	..	1
..	..	9	12	..	..	..	..
..	1	..	..	..	..
..	2	1	..	..	..
..
..	..	148	146	1	1	..	1
Infectious Encephalitis							
M.	F.						
1	..						
..	..						
..	..						
1	..						
..	..						
..	..						
1	..						

5. PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF DISEASE

Notifiable Infectious Diseases

As can be seen from Table III the year 1959 was noteworthy for the exceptionally small numbers of all of the notifiable diseases. Apart from a not abnormal measles epidemic we had nothing in the way of an outbreak, and it was especially gratifying to get through the year with only one case of food poisoning and two of dysentery.

The two polio cases were both in unvaccinated persons, a girl of three years and an adult male.

Epidemic vomiting.

A small outbreak of this minor digestive upset came to light in September at Draycott Primary School, and as expected cleared up almost as suddenly as it had appeared.

Preventive inoculations.

a) **Diphtheria** During the year 369 children received primary protection and 619 received a re-inforcing dose. The corresponding figures for 1958 were 349 and 95.

The increase of re-inforcement is satisfactory, and although we could wish for more primary inoculations we are not perhaps doing too badly to get about 70% of our babies immunised against a disease which is personally unknown to the present generation of mothers.

b) **Whooping Cough.** Until this year the number of children given primary protection had increased each year, but I am sorry to have to report that in 1959 the number dropped by thirty four to only 325.

I had felt that the abnormally low incidence of whooping cough (no notified cases in 1958 and only five in 1959) might have indicated that preventive inoculation was leading to a disappearance of this disease as it had done in the case of diphtheria.

Unfortunately events of 1960 have proved this is not so.

c) **Small-pox.** Although we had 141 infant vaccinations and 52 other primary vaccinations the acceptance of this protective measure is of little use as a community safeguard.

Undoubtedly the reasons for the poor results are largely due to the fact that it is more troublesome than other vaccinations, and I can not help but feel that rather than persist in advocating a troublesome procedure with little hope of success we should look to our scientists to find a better virus.

To the individual I would say "accept the present form of protection, which might save your life," but to the community as a whole I would say that research might well lead to a form of vaccination against small-pox which was far better than the present one.

d) **Poliomyelitis.** By the end of the year vaccination against polio had been extended to those of the ages up to twenty five years, and vaccine was in good supply. While figures of vaccinations within the Rural District are not available records of the County Area showed that the acceptance of vaccination was comparable with that of the country as a whole - reasonably good in the case of young children but poor in the case of teenagers and young adults.

Open sessions were held in the evenings, and it was surprising to find the large numbers who came along for a first injection but did not take the trouble to return for the second.

Tuberculosis. Fifteen new cases of pulmonary and three of non-pulmonary tuberculosis were notified during the year. Three of the pulmonary cases were in school children. There were two deaths from pulmonary and one from non-pulmonary tuberculosis.

While compiling this report I received from the Ministry of Health a circular regarding the future of the Chest Services and a report of the Standing Tuberculosis Advisory Committee, which prompted me to compare the position in the Rural District with that of the whole country.

My findings were disconcerting. In the country as a whole there had been in the last decade a decrease of about 50% in notifications of pulmonary tuberculosis. The Rural District figures show too great a year to year fluctuation for comparison between any two years, but the three year period 1949-1951 showed forty notifications and the period 1957-1959 showed forty five. Certainly there has been no decline in the number of cases reported and this could either mean that we were better at "case finding" than the rest of the country, or that we had more tuberculosis.

An index to the amount of tuberculosis in a community can be found in the percentage of positive tuberculosis reactors, and enquiry from the County Principal School Medical Officer as to the results of testing of Cheadle school children showed that we had 15% of our children positive reactors. That is 15% of children at the age of about 13 had been exposed to tuberculosis infection.

Looking again at the Advisory Committee report this seemed neither more nor less than the average, which was reassuring.

What was far from re-assuring was that the parents of 769 children, were offered protection against tuberculosis by B.C.G. inoculation if this proved necessary and only 322 were prepared to accept it.

I would not offer any comment or speculation on this but I would stress to the Council and any other readers of this report that our community should know and face up to the following four facts:-

1. Although tuberculosis has become less prevalent in England in the last ten years we have nothing to support the view that it has done so in the Rural District.
2. We know that about one child in every six has been exposed to infection by the age of about 13 years.
3. We know that in the last five years we have had 23 deaths from tuberculosis (22 from Road Traffic Accidents) so the disease still presents a problem.
4. We know that 58% of parents do not accept the safe guard of preventive inoculation.

Accidents. There were 9 deaths from road traffic accidents and 13 from all other accidents. Nine of these were falls in the home in elderly people. It is somewhat surprising to learn that about one in every forty of us may expect our death to be brought about by a simple thing such as slipping on a polished floor.

Preventive Medicine and Industry. For many years it has been realised that some form of health supervision of places of work or medical supervision of workers is desirable but no comprehensive single system has been evolved. Different industries have different health hazards which cannot all be known to the family doctor. In addition the family doctor may have loyalties either to his patients who may be workers or management.

The Ministry of Labour, of course, has its Factory Inspectorate, with a very small number of Medical Inspectors. The government appointment of doctors, usually general practitioners, as Certifying Factory Surgeons has done something to ensure that the worker was suited to his job.

Coming nearer home our own Health Department has a very limited responsibility for seeing there is adequate sanitary provision in factories, and the Shops Act is in a way intended to promote reasonable working conditions.

Quite apart from these health measures set up by the government the larger industrial concerns have come to realise that an "Industrial Medical Service" provided by the firms themselves is of value.

An "Industrial Medical Service" serves several purposes. It aims at advising the management on providing healthy working conditions. It provides an accident service which is at least good for morale. It may provide minor treatment facilities which enable the worker to carry on with minor illness with a minimum loss of time. It can provide facilities such as physio-therapy which help to cut down the time lost in treatment for certain illnesses. It can advise the management on a workers physical and mental suitability for a particular type of work. It can undertake regular routine medical checks where there is a danger of some form of industrial disease with possible compensation claims.

The larger firms have realised such a service will save them money, but there are few such firms. A survey in Halifax a few years ago showed how very few there were.

In some localities such as Slough it has proved possible for a number of firms to join together and provide a comprehensive "Industrial Medical Service."

In the Cheadle Rural District such services are non-existent for most workers although a few of the larger concerns have at least the nucleus of an Industrial Medical Service. As to this I can say no more, as whether such a service is provided by the management is not the concern of the District Council. I can only say that I personally suspect that in our District the Industrial Medical Service could be built up with advantage to both management and worker.

I think it inevitable that with time such a build up will take place - as has happened in many cases where a useful service does not exist the onus of providing it will be placed on the local Health Authority.

With this lengthy introduction to my subject I would record that 1959 showed that managements would not be averse to such a thing. A number of factory managements accepted a County Council offer to send a polio vaccination team into the factory thus enabling workers to be protected with a minimum effort and "in the firms time." Some showed real enthusiasm for the suggestion which obviously had some advantages to the workers, the management and the rest of the community.

A similar example of industry's acceptance of the values of preventive medicine can of course be seen in its acceptance of visits from the Mass Miniature Radiography Unit in 1959 and earlier years.

This may be little more than a straw in the wind, but I think it is very noteworthy.

At the time of my appointment as your Medical Officer of Health I was asked if I would be prepared to undertake industrial medical work. A comprehensive and compulsory Industrial Medical Service may not come in my time, but I think it is inevitable, that it would be beneficial, and that both the Council and the general public should know enough of its possibilities to welcome it when it does come.

6. GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICE

Services available. These remain as outlined in my report for 1957 and given in detail in 1956. No major changes occurred in 1959.

The Stoke-on-Trent Miniature Radiography Unit adopted a policy of regular sessions at its base on five days in each week which received a good response by way of referrals of cases from general practitioners.

The need of a maternity hospital for Cheadle.

The news that there was to be an extension of maternity bed accommodation at the City General Hospital, Stoke-on-Trent again led the Cheadle Rural District Council to request the Birmingham Regional Hospital Board to provide a Maternity Home in Cheadle.

Unfortunately I feel that the argument that such a home would not be large enough to prove economical is a very strong one.

Nevertheless I can not see that we will be able to implement many of the recommendations of the 1958 Commission of Enquiry into the Maternity Services until we have at least some beds attached to the Cheadle Hospital. This Commission stressed the need for ante-natal supervision (and liaison. It stressed the desirability of General Practitioner beds. It stressed that the patient should have an opportunity to gain reassurance by becoming familiar with the hospital before entering it for the confinement. These things can not possibly come about while our maternity hospitals remain remote.

While I feel that Cheadle town with its present population would not justify a complete and separate hospital I think that in time there may be a re-orientation of ideas. A hospital to the west of Cheadle would be able to provide for not only cases from the Rural District but also cases from the eastern side of Stoke-on-Trent.

Administrative changes for Local Authority Health Services.

In January the Council decided to apply to the Ministry for permission to make a scheme under the "Local Government Act 1958 (Delegation of Health and Welfare Functions)". Such a scheme would have included delegation from the County Council of responsibilities for Health Centre, Care of Mothers and Young Children Midwifery, Health Visiting, Home Nursing, Vaccination, and Immunisation, Prevention of illness, care and after care, Domestic Help, Welfare of disabled persons, Registration and regulation of private day nurseries and child minders and Functions relating to mentally ill and mentally defective persons.

Such delegation under the 1958 Act was to be granted automatically only to Urban Districts with a population over 50,000, but other authorities could apply to the Minister for permission to make a scheme if special circumstances existed.

After further enquiry, however, the Council decided not to proceed with the application.

At or about this time the County Council had informed the District Council that it was itself considering a scheme whereby certain functions referred to above would be delegated not, as at present, to ad hoc Area Committees composed of representatives of the County Council, a member of District Councils, the Hospital Management Committee and the Executive Council, but directly to individual District Councils.

At a County, Conference the Chairman of the County Council explained the idea to the District Council representatives and sought their views. It was decided that the Clerk to the County Council with the assistance of Clerks from two Urban and two Rural Councils should draw up a draft scheme which would be submitted to individual District Councils for their consideration.

The draft scheme is still awaited.

7. FOOD AND NUTRITION

The various factors concerned with the adequate diet of the individual were dealt with at some length in my reports for 1956 and 1957.

As the report for 1959 is to be confined to the years happenings this section is of necessity short.

Nutrition

Generally the nutritional state of the community is good, but capable of improvement. We still await a lead before taking steps to ensure our water supplies have an optimum fluorine content which we know would reduce the amount of dental disease.

Slaughter House Appointed Day Order.

This Order was received in February 1959. Its intention is to improve and obtain uniformity in standards of sanitary provision and hygiene in slaughterhouses. Comment on what is entailed is given in the report of the Chief Public Health Inspector.

Food Shops and Inspections and Meat Inspections

As in recent years a 100% inspection of carcasses at slaughter houses was maintained, but it was not possible to give anything like such thorough supervision to the catering and food retailing trades.

Details of inspections are given in the Chief Public Health Inspectors Report.

Safety and Cleanliness of Milk.

Detail of milk sampling is as follows:-

Samples Tested for Tuberculosis	151
Samples proved to be infected	2
Samples tested for general cleanliness	388
Samples not found to be satisfactory	21

8. WATER SUPPLIES

Increased Demand.

The exceptionally dry summer gave emphasis to the need of those few parts of the rural district where piped water was not available or where increased building and useage coupled with corrosion of old mains tended to make the supply inadequate.

Although lowered water tables gave some anxiety none of the Council's water sources failed.

Purity of supplies.

No major anxieties arose. The usual table of water analysis is given here under.

CHEMICAL ANALYSIS OF WATER

	Alton	Cauldon	Cheadle	Ipstones Foxt	Kingsley	Tean	Werrington	Staffs Potteries Water Bd.
P.H. Value	6.3	6.6	7.0	6.6	6.8	7.1	6.9	7.4
Total solids dried at 212°F	14.0	13.0	37.0	14.0	16.0	30.0	24.0	17.5
Free and Saline Ammonia	Nil	0.0016	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Albuminoid Ammonia	Nil	0.0016	0.004	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	0.0004
Nitric Nitrogen	0.05	Nil	1.54	0.20	0.15	0.30	0.40	0.29
Chlorine	0.8	1.6	2.5	1.6	1.6	2.7	1.9	1.4
Oxygen absorbed in 4hrs at 80° F.	0.004	0.008	0.004	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Appearance... ..	Clear and Colourless	Minute trace of suspended matter. Colourless	Clear and Colourless	Clear and Colourless	Slight Opalescence	Clear and Colourless	Clear and Colourless	Very slightly opalescent
Injurious Metallic contam- ination	Nil	Iron-0.01	Nil	Iron-0.01	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION - WATER SAMPLES 1959

	Alton	Cauldon	Cheadle	Ipstones Foxt	Kingsley	Tean	Werrington	Staffs Potteries Water Bd.
Probable number coliform bacilli, MacConkey 2 days 37 deg. C.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Probable number of faecal coll.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

New Works.

Work on the Bottomhouse Scheme (see details in Surveyor's Contribution to my report for 1957) proceeded throughout the year as did work on the pumping station for a new bore hole at Sheepwash. The Council agreed to the provision of new mains to the Rangemoor Reservoir and to Kingsley Holt and to the extension of mains at Cheddleton, Kingsley and Winkhill. Other new works are described in detail in the Surveyor's Report.

Amalgamation of Water Undertakings.

Representatives of the Council visited the Ministry of Housing and Local Government at Whitehall to discuss this matter.

Subsequently the Council resolved that if the Minister insisted on amalgamation despite the Council's wish to retain their own undertaking he should be informed that the Council favoured amalgamation with the Potteries Water Board.

9. DISPOSAL OF WASTES.

Ipstones Sewage Disposal Works.

October 1959 saw the official opening of these works, although the scheme for their construction and the extension of sewerage in Ipstones was prepared and approved by the Council in 1955. Details of the Scheme were given in the Surveyor's Contribution to my report for 1958.

Schemes for a main Valley Sewer from Cheadle to Tean and the internal drainage of Checkley and Tean.

These schemes were described in the Surveyor's Contribution to my report for 1956 and further detail is given in his report for the current year.

The schemes were submitted to the Minister for approval in 1956, and that approval was granted in 1959. Tenders for the work were sought and accepted.

Ash Bank Sewage Works.

The existing works proving too small to deal with the increased load due to new building steps were taken to acquire land for the provision of larger works. The desired land was not forthcoming during the year under consideration.

Froghail Works.

The Council agreed to the enlargement of these works to deal with the load of domestic sewage from Messrs. Thomas Bolton and Sons works as well as from local housing.

Closet conversions, Scavenging, etc.

Details of work are given in the Chief Public Health Inspector's Report and the Surveyor's Report.

Clean Air - Smoke observations, etc.

Maintenance of deposit gauges in the Waterfall and Cauldon Lowe locality enabled some sort of a base line to be drawn of the normal degree of cement and limestone dust deposit. From this base line it should be possible to determine any appreciable increase of deposit in the future.

Following local complaints smoke observations over a two week period were undertaken at the Kingsley Brickworks, and made available to the Alkali Inspector who is responsible for seeing that industrial smoke from works of this type is kept to a minimum.

Unfortunately it would appear that the production of blue bricks entails a certain amount of smoke and existing legislature allows it.

Clean Air - Ministry of Housing and Local Government Circular 5/59.

This circular suggested the making of a local bye-law that fire places in new houses should be capable of burning smokeless fuel.

The existence of such a byelaw would lessen the number of cases where the Council might be responsible for conversion costs should it wish to establish a smokeless zone.

The Rural District was not thought to have any smoke problem, the tradition of a mining locality favoured coal fires, and the heating methods of the future were uncertain.

No byelaw was made.

10.

HOUSING.

Demolition of unfit houses.

In 1958 the Chief Public Health Inspector reported a commencement of the Council's Slum Clearance Programme with fifteen demolition orders and three Closing Orders.

The year 1959 really saw the programme getting into its stride. The procedure being followed is that a list of sub-standard houses has been prepared by the Chief Public Health Inspector and submitted to the Council. As new building proceeds a sub-committee will visit the listed houses in each locality and decide how they should be dealt with.

This Committee has started by tackling the problem of Cheadle town. One Clearance Area was defined and confirmed during the year, and a second was decided upon. Other unfit houses are to be dealt with individually. The total number of unfit houses dealt with during the year was forty-four.

Repair and Improvements.

Details are given in the Chief Public Health Inspector's Report.

The year saw the introduction of what are known as "Standard Grants"—grants at a fixed price for fixed improvements which are obligatory upon the Council.

As in the past the Council has not withheld its Discretionary Grants, the introduction of the Standard Grants may not be as beneficial as elsewhere.

New Building.

Details are given in the Surveyor's Report. Private building continued to make a useful contribution to our housing problem.

The Caravan Site.

My report for 1957 (Sec. 3) commented on the beginning of the Council's Caravan Site and the room for improvement.

While room for improvement still remains the Council in 1959 introduced an amenity which is to be found in exceptionally few caravan sites - that is the tenant may if he wishes have the exclusive use of a w.c. compartment for a small additional rental. The Council also were able to offer garage accomodation by the conversion of one of the remaining army huts.

11. REPORT OF CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

I have pleasure in submitting my report for the year 1959.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT 1936.

Repair of houses.

143 houses have been repaired, 121 as a result of informal action and 22 as a result of formal action by my Department.

It has been found necessary to take one owner to Court in respect of two houses for non-compliance with an Abatement Notice. It is only when all other efforts of my department have failed that such matters as this are referred to the Courts.

RENT ACT, 1957

The number of applications for Certificate of Disrepair was only 4, only 1 was issued and Undertakings were given by the owners in the other three cases. One application for revocation was approved.

Since the commencement of the Act there have only been thirty six applications for Certificate of Disrepair, a very small number considering the type of houses we have in the District.

HOUSING (FINANCIAL PROVISIONS) ACT. 1958

HOUSE PURCHASE AND HOUSING ACT, 1958.

This year saw the introduction of a new type of Improvement Grant to be termed a Standard Grant to supplement the present system of improvement grants. The distinctive features of the new grants are that they are payable only in respect of specified standard amenities and on the expenditure actually incurred in providing the standard amenities.

Provided that certain conditions are satisfied the owner of the property can claim the grant as of right.

There are five standard amenities eligible for standard grant and the amount of grant payable in any particular case is to be one half of the cost shown to have been incurred in executing the works, subject to a maximum which varies with the amenities being installed.

The five standard amenities are as follows with the maximum grant available for each, indicated.

- a) fixed bath or shower in a bathroom £25
- b) a wash hand basin £5
- c) a hot watr supply £75
- d) a water closet in or contiguous to the dwelling £40
- e) satisfactory facilities for storing food. £10

This scheme should simplify applications where the main work is the installation of these fittings in an existing room or where a house lacks only certain of those amenities. As an example a house may have all the amenities with the exception of a bath. An improvement grant could not be paid if the cost of installation of a bath was less than £100 but a Standard Grant can be paid subject to a maximum grant of £25

The Standard Grant scheme will be especially useful in areas where the Council have refused to administer the Improvement Grant Scheme, owners will now be in a position to demand the Standard Grant if the conditions laid down are satisfied.

The number of applications received	
this year for Improvement Grant.	38
for Standard Grant	4

of these thirty six improvement grants have been approved with total grants amounting to £7,389 an average of £205 grant for each application.

Since the commencement of the scheme in 1949 grants have been offered for 195 houses.

HOUSING ACT, 1957.

Slum Clearance action has been taken in respect of 44 houses.

A Compulsory Purchase Order was made on 13th March, 1959 in respect of 14 houses in the New Row and Chapel Street, Cheadle area. This was confirmed by the Minister of Housing and Local Government on 9th October, 1959 following a public local enquiry held at the Council Offices, Cheadle on 14th July, 1959

A Compulsory Purchase Order was made 18th December, 1959 in respect of 10 houses in Ashbourne Road, Cheadle.

The remaining houses have all been dealt with by individual action.

This year has seen therefore the commencement of the Council's programme of clearing away houses unfit for human habitation.

It is not expected that the houses on the Tean Road, Cheadle estate will be ready for occupation until August, 1960.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT 1936 - SECTION 47.

63 Privies have been replaced by water closets.

The sewerage to The Wood, Meir, was completed during the year and 30 properties in this area were connected to the sewer. A further length of sewer was laid to serve Windy Arbour, Cheadle, and there seven houses were connected to the sewer and privy replacements carried out.

Number of conversions carried out by owners	55
Amount of grants made	£801 9s. 0d.
Average cost per conversion	£29 2s. 10d.
Number of conversions carried out by Local Authority....	8
Cost of conversions....	£271 6s. 8d.
Average cost per conversion	£33 18s 4d.

REHOUSING.

Although only two houses have been built this year, 34 have been re-let. A comprehensive report on all applicants for Council houses was prepared for each member of the Council, the total number of applicants 335.

Number of houses occupied during the year	3
Number of persons rehoused	3
Number of persons housed per dwelling	1.5
Number of lodger applications reported on	47
Number of house exchange applications	11
Number of houses re-let during the year	34
Number of lock-up garages	9
Number of garages re-let	4

FOOD INSPECTION.

The department maintained 100 per cent. inspection of all animals killed at the 19 slaughterhouses in the District.

CARCASES AND OFFAL INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED
IN WHOLE OR IN PART.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number Killed	1126	898	1337	9616	2438
Number Inspected	1126	898	1337	9616	2438
ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS AND CYSTICERCOSIS.					
Whole Carcases condemned	...	....	7	9	....
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemn- ed.	367	447	8	982	225
Percentage affected with disease other than Tuber- culosis or Cystercercosis.	32.6	49.7	0.6	10.2	9.2
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY					
Whole Carcases condemned	1	2	1	....	1
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemn- ed.	117	331	1	....	200
Percentage infected with Tuberculosis	10.4	36.8	0.07		8.2
CYSTICERCOSIS					
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemn- ed.	21	6			
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration.	3	1			
Generalised Cysticercosis and Carcases totally con- demned. ....	....	....	

DETAILS OF MISCELLANEOUS FOOD SURRENDERED.

15 tins—60 lbs. of Sandwich Ham.
5 tins—53 lbs. 10 ozs. Boneless Ham.
3 tins—32 lbs. 14 ozs. Gammon Ham.
1 tin—6 lbs. Corned Beef.
1 tin—1 lb. Ox Tongue.
1 tin—6 lbs. Fruit Cocktail.
48— $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. packets of margarine.

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT

42 Slaughterman's Licences have been issued during the year.

MILK AND DAIRIES REGULATIONS, 1949 - 1954

The following Table indicates the number and type of licences issued to milk retailers within the District.

Special Designation.	No. of Dealers Licences.	No. of Supplementary Licences.
Tuberculin Tested....	15	7
Pasteurised....	15	7
Sterilised	43	7

PETROLEUM CONSOLIDATION ACT, 1958

Number of petrol licences issued	88
Number of Carbide licences issued	0
Number of inspections	31

CLEAN AIR ACT, 1956.

Complaints were received concerning excessive smoke emission from a brick manufacturing works at Kingsley.

Although this process is subject to control under the Alkali etc., Works Regulations Act 1906 as extended by Section 17 of the Clean Air Act 1956 it was decided that a series of observations be made.

A record of smoke emission was kept for three days and for a continuous period of nine hours in each day from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

The results obtained were as follows.

No smoke	4 hrs. 35 minutes.
Ringelman 1	5 hrs. 33 minutes
Ringelman 2.	4 hrs. 32 minutes
Ringelman 3.	5 hrs. 46 minutes
Ringelman 4.	6 hrs. 34 minutes

The results of these observations were submitted to the Alkali Inspector and there is no doubt that further research is necessary to bring about a reduction in smoke emission from this process of blue brick production.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

The following Table shows the number of inspections carried out to the various types of properties within the District.

	Local Authority	Dwelling Houses	Business Premises	Agricultural
No. of Properties in Local Authority's District.	20	9694	605	907
No. of properties inspected as a result of—				
a) Notification ... ..	...	20	8	4
b) Surveyed under the Act.	20	420	30	18
c) Otherwise ... ..	...	...	...	...
Total Inspections carried out including re-inspect- ions.	63	717	77	62
No. of properties inspect- ed which were found to be infested.				
(a) Rats Major	2	2	...	8
Minor	18	306	29	11
(b) Mice Major	...	...	...	...
Minor	...	132	9	...
Number of infested prop- erties treated by Local Authority.	20	440	38	17
Number of Block Control Schemes carried out	39 (in respect of 294 properties)			
Number of Contracts	29			
Amount of Contracts	£155-10s.-0d.			

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS

Number on Register	127
Number using Mechanical Power	73
Number of inspections	10

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors.)

PREMISES	Number on Register	Inspections.	Number of Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
1.—Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authority	54	6	..	..
2 Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	73	4	..	..
3. Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers premises) .. .. .	..	..	..	..
— TOTAL	127	10	..	..

2. Cases in which defects were found to exist.

PARTICULARS	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	Referred By H.M. Inspector	Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
Want of cleanliness (S1)
Overcrowding (S2)
Unreasonable Temperature					
— (S3)
Inadequate ventilation (S4)..
Sanitary Conveniences (S7).
(a) insufficient
(b) unsuitable or defective
(c) not separate for sexes..
Ineffective drainage of floors					
Other offences against the					
Act (not including off-					
ences relating to out-					
work)
TOTAL

SUMMARY OF WORK CARRIED OUT BY PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS.

Description of Visits	Inspections and Observations made	Notices served		Notices Complied with
		Informal	Formal	
Complaints and Nuisances	291	35	2	17
Food Premises	162			
Food Inspection	2058			
Ice Cream Premises	22			
Farms and Dairies	10			
Housing Act 1957	356		44	
House Purchase and Hous- ing Act	188			
Housing Applications	253			
Rent Act 1957	4	4	1	
Slaughterhouses	25			
Public Health Act 1936. Sec. 47	437	49	5	63
Drainage	460	29	4	18
Shops Act	82			
Factories and Workshops	10			
Water Supplies	59			
Water Samples	78			
Water Connections	19	8	11	11
Petroleum Regulations	31	4		4
Clean Air Act	55			
Offensive Trades	12	2		2
Infectious Diseases	4			
Disinfections	1			
Bakehouses	1			
Re-visits of Complaints	212			
Interviews and other visits	731			
TOTAL	5561	131	67	115

ENGINEER AND SURVEYOR'S CONTRIBUTION FOR THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH—1959

CHEDDLETON WATER SUPPLY—(Wallmyres and Sheepwash Pumping Stations).

The amount of water pumped from 1st January, 1959 to 31st December, 1959 was 153,912,600 gallons which gives a daily consumption of 421,678 gallons.

TEAN WATER SUPPLY—(Teanford Pumping Station)

The amount of water pumped from 1st January, 1959 to 31st December, 1959 was 31,488,000 gallons which gives a daily consumption of 82,268 gallons.

HOLLINGTON WATER—(Hollington Supply) (Teanford Pumping Station)

The amount of water supplied to the general public from this supply from 1st January, 1959 to 31st December, 1959 was 56,613,700 gallons which gives a daily consumption of 155,106 gallons.

CAULDON LOWE SUPPLY— (Cauldon Lowe Pumping Station, Cotton).

The amount of water pumped from 1st January, 1959 to 31st December, 1959 was 28,696,000 gallons which gives a daily consumption of 78,619 gallons.

FOXT AND IPSTONES SUPPLY— (Black Bank Pumping Station)

....The amount of water pumped from 1st January, 1959 to 31st December, 1959 was 12,008,000 gallons which gives a daily consumption of 32,898 gallons.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL SCHEMES TEAN AND CHECKLEY SEWERAGE SCHEME.

A scheme to connect the drainage of properties in the villages of Checkley, Lower Tean, Upper Tean and Teanford to the Blythe Valley Trunk Sewer has been prepared and the construction of the sewers has been commenced. The sewers will serve approximately 433 properties when completed and the total length of pipes required will be 5,850 linal yards varying from 6in.—9in. diameter.

The village of Checkley is situated below the level of the Trunk Sewer and it has been necessary to erect a pumping station to lift the sewage into this sewer. The remaining villages are all discharged into the Trunk Sewer by gravitation.

One section has been completed and that serves the properties in Back Lane and the Southern part of Uttoxeter Road, at Lower Tean. Where the properties are connected to old sewers these will be disconnected and reconnected to the new sewers when completed

CHEADLE TO TEAN VALLEY SEWER.

The existing sewers in Cheadle discharge into two sewage disposal works, the Cheadle works and the Brookhouses works. Both of these works have become overloaded and it has been necessary to connect all the Cheadle sewage to the Blythe Valley Trunk Sewer.

A scheme has been prepared which has received the approval of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government and it is anticipated work will commence early 1960. A new 15-in. sewer takes the Cheadle sewage and a 9in. sewer takes the Brookhouses drainage, both of these discharging into a 21-in. sewer at Mobberley and then into the Blythe Valley Trunk Sewer at Upper Tean.

IPSTONES SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE PURIFICATION WORKS.

The construction of the sewers to serve the properties in Ipstones have been completed including the new sewage disposal works. All the properties have been disconnected from the old sewers which do not discharge into the works and reconnected to the new sewers.

The works comprise—Two Detritus Tanks, one Storm Tank, two Sedimentation Tanks, two Circular Biological Filters, two Humus Tanks and six Sludge Drying Beds. The final effluent now discharges into the brook, thus removing the nuisance which was caused when it was allowed to flow over the land.

WATER SCHEMES

BOTTOMHOUSES WATER SCHEME.

Work was completed on the laying of water mains to serve 60 properties in the Bottomhouses area. It is anticipated that work will commence on the installation of the booster and submersible pumps at Black Bank Pumping Station, Foxt early in 1960. In addition the Swineholes Wood Reservoir now under construction, is expected to be completed in the near future when work can be commenced on connecting the properties to give them a mains supply of water.

CHEDDLETON WATER SCHEME

A Licence was issued by the Minister of Housing and Local Government for the abstraction of water at Sheepwash borehole and a commencement has been made on the works associated with the borehole.

The 10" Rising Main from the borehole to Wallmyres has been completed and it is expected that the remaining section from Wallmyres to Rangemoor Reservoir will be carried out next year.

Work has commenced on the Sheepwash Pumping Station and when completed tenders will be invited for the installation of the submersible and booster pumps. This supply will be used to supplement the Cheddleton Water Scheme, as the present supply from Wallmyres is not capable of meeting the present day and future demands for this scheme.

CAULDON LOWE 4" RISING MAIN

A scheme was prepared and approval received from the Ministry of Housing and Local Government for the laying of a new 4" cast iron rising main between the existing pumping station and the reservoir at Cauldon Lowe. This new 4" rising main has now been completed and is now in operation replacing the existing rising main laid in 1912 which is badly corroded and in a poor condition.

MONEYSTONE 3" WATER MAIN.

A length of 3" cast iron water main has been laid from the existing main at Crowtrees to Whiston Eaves. This serves the new industrial developement being carried out by British Industrial Sand Limited and two farms adjacent to this developement.

PETHILLS LANE 3" WATER MAIN

This extension serves a number of farms in the Waterfall Cross area which were originally served by dip wells and were condemned due to the impurities in the water. The new main is 3" cast iron and the water is abstracted from the pumping station at Cauldon Lowe.

WATERMAIN EXTENSIONS - HOUSING SITES

Small extensions to the water mains have been provided in various parts of the district to serve the sites being developed by private enterprise, these are as follows:-

Washerwall Lane, Werrington.

Hayner Grove, Weston Coyney.

Valley Road, Weston Coyney.

Werrington Park Estate, Werrington.

Southlowe Estate, Cellarhead.

HOUSEHOLD REFUSE COLLECTION.

This collection is carried out fully by direct labour throughout the district and the refuse is removed by controlled tipping in various parts of the district. Two new refuse vehicles have been purchased powered by diesel engines and these have replaced two old vehicles. The Council have eight covered refuse vehicles and three night soil tank vehicles maintained by the Council's fitters.

In addition to these vehicles the Council also operate two open lorries, one of which has been acquired recently to replace an old short wheel base lorry. Five small Bedford vans are used by the foreman in charge of the various departments, two waterworks, housing, refuse collection and a general van.

A weekly collection of household refuse is in operation, but in the outlying parishes where properties are scattered and access difficult a fortnightly collection is carried out.

BUS SHELTERS.

During this year seven bus shelters have been erected five of the prefabricated concrete type with glazed windows, one cedar timber type and one of precast limestone blocks.

The Bus Shelters are sited as follows:-

1....Blythe Bridge.

1....Hoftens Cross (Precast limestone blocks.)

1....Dilhorne.

1....Kingsley.

1....Threapwood (Timber.)

1....Lower Tean.

1....Werrington.

The total number of bus shelters erected throughout the Rural District is 56 and in accordance with the Council's programme further shelters are to be erected next year.

PROVISION OF LITTER BASKETS

Forty-one additional litter baskets have been provided during the year and at the end of the year a total of 115 baskets have been provided in the district at a total cost of £362.

These baskets have been installed at various locations in the district with the co-operation of the Parish Councils, who have suggested these sites as being suitable for that purpose. The baskets are emptied by the refuse collectors at the same time as the normal house refuse is collected.

HOUSING.

The number of houses completed during the year was—

by Local Authority	2
by Private Enterprise	274
Total	276

THE BIRCHES, CHEADLE.

A bungalow has been erected on a plot of land at the junction of The Birches and The Avenue, Cheadle. This has tidied up the site which was originally waste land and a dump for garden refuse.

QUEEN STREET

A similar detached bungalow has also been built on a plot of land at the junction of Queen Street and Churchill Road, Cheadle.

TEAN ROAD HOUSING SITE.

Work has commenced on the construction of houses on the first contract of 30 houses. At the end of the year 14 houses were under construction and it is anticipated that the second contract of 34 houses would be commenced next year. When completed the site will include 44 houses, 12 two-storey flats and 8 bungalows and these will form part of the Council's Slum Clearance Programme.

WELL STREET HOUSING.

Two pairs of houses are under construction on the two plots of land fronting Robina Drive, the building of these was delayed until this year due to an overhead high tension cable which has now been laid underground.

BLYTHE MOUNT HOUSING SITE

A further block of nine lock-up garages has been erected on this site for the use of Council House Tenants bringing the total to 15 garages for this estate.

PRIVATE ENTERPRISE.

The number of houses and bungalows under construction by private enterprise within the Rural District is 238.

In addition, private layout plans for development of other sites have been approved which will be carried out next year.

